

Remarks:

Claims 2-4, and 12-15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 18, 20, and 24 have been amended.

Claims 5-9, 16, 18-22, 24, and 29 remain pending.

Claim 20 was objected to for informality. Claim 20 has been amended to clarify that which is being claimed.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 18-20, and 24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Morandotti et al. (US Patent 5,289,211) in view of Kumada et al. (US Patent 5,097,248).

Independent Claims 5, 6, 9, 18, 20, and 24 have each been amended to recite that at least one of the electrodes "provides a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through" for example as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 5 of the present patent application. Neither Morandotti et al. and/or Kumada et al., alone or in combination, disclose or even reasonably suggest a printing fluid detector having an electrode with a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through. Thus, for at least these reasons Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, 18-20, and 24 are patentable over the cited art.

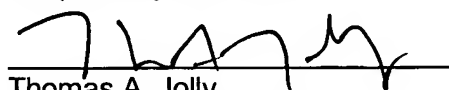
Claims 7-8, 21-22, and 29 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Morandotti et al. (US Patent 5,289,211) in view of Kumada et al. (US Patent 5,097,248) and in further view of Oka (US Patent 5,821,309).

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent Claim 6, Claims 21 and 22 depend from independent Claim 20, and Claim 29 depends from independent Claim 16.

Independent Claims 6, 16 and 20 have each been amended to recite that at least one of the electrodes "provides a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through". Neither Morandotti et al., Kumada et al., and/or Oka, alone or in combination, disclose or even reasonably suggest a printing fluid detector having an electrode with a hollow interior that the printing fluid passes through. Thus, for at least these reasons Claims 7-8, 21-22, and 29 are patentable over the cited art.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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